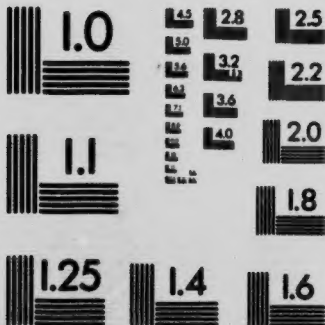


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"The Defence Idea"



A REPORT OF THE ADDRESSES

AT THE

FIRST CONVENTION

Canadian Defence League

ONTARIO DIVISION

TORONTO, ONTARIO

September 9th, 1910

Canadian Defence League

Room 212 St. James Chambers
TORONTO, CANADA.

OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE.

1. To awaken the public mind to the serious importance of national defence, and to aid in bringing about the adoption of the most effective and economical system to that end.
2. To carry on a non-political, educational campaign looking to the adoption of the principle of patriotic, unpaid, or universal naval or military training, in the belief that such training conduces to the industrial, physical and moral elevation of the whole people, and is essential to national safety.
3. To co-operate with the various Provincial educational authorities, the Department of Militia and Defence, and the Trustees of the Strathcona Fund, in introducing physical and military training into the schools of Canada.
4. To aid in securing the systematic physical and military training of all youths between the ages of fourteen and eighteen.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

Lt.-Col. Wm. Hamilton Merritt (Chairman); Walter J. Brown (Hon. Secretary); Rev. T. Crawford Brown, M.A.; Lt.-Col. J. T. Fotheringham, M.D.; Jas. L. Hughes; E. H. Keating, C.E.; Prof. W. Lash Miller; Mrs. S. Nordheimer.

Canadian Defence League

Ontario Division

Office: Room 212 St. James Chambers,
TORONTO, ONTARIO.

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The Defence idea

By **SIR FREDERICK BORDEN**, Minister of Militia and Defence.

At the Canadian National Exhibition Directors' Luncheon, Sept. 9, 1910.

(From The Globe.)

National in the character of its exhibits and in the extent of its influence, the Exhibition has no less truly interpreted the Canadian spirit by the recognition it has given this year to what Sir Frederick Borden happily described yesterday (Sept. 9) as the "Canadian defence idea." The military note introduced at the opening by the presence of Major-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the display of the Boy Scouts, and the prominence given to exhibits of a military and naval interest, and sustained by the encampment of troops on the grounds, have had a spectacular value, but they also had lessons which no one in sympathy with the defence movement could fail to read. The part the Exhibition is playing in stimulating an interest in that movement was further emphasized by the proceedings of the Canadian Defence League, which held its first convention in the Dairy Building, and by the visit of Sir Frederick Borden, the Minister of Militia and Defence, who, in an interesting speech at the directors' luncheon, gave a succinct review of the development of the defence idea, and expressed his hearty approval of the objects of the League.

Sir Frederick Borden Speaks.

Sir Frederick Borden was the principal guest at the directors' luncheon. In introducing the Minister of Militia, the Chairman, President George H. Gooderham, suggested the placing of a training ship in Toronto Bay in connection with the Canadian navy, pointing out that there were hundreds of young yachtsmen in Toronto who would make excellent material for a naval militia.

Proceeding to speak of what he called the Canadian defence idea, Sir Frederick thought it was a striking sign of the times that in the Canadian National Exhibition this year a portion of the time had been devoted to illustrating the importance of defence considerations. That was all the more

fitting, as no community had given more intelligent attention to the development of Canadian defence than Toronto, the home of the Queen's Own Rifles and of the Canadian Defence League, with the objects of which he was in the fullest sympathy. It was natural that having proved her capacity for self-government and establishing her position as a nation, Canada should turn her attention to defence. Tracing the development of the defence idea, he dwelt upon the effects of Canada's action in sending troops to South Africa, recalled the steps taken at the Colonial Conference in 1902 and at the Imperial Conferences of 1907 and 1909, and spoke of the taking over of the garrisons at Halifax and Esquimalt.

Must Have Local Autonomy.

The basis of Canadian defence was that Canada must be free to do as she wished. "We must control these forces, otherwise we would not be a free people, and if we are not a free people we would be of no use to the Empire." Imperial unity went with local autonomy. They were not only not inconsistent, but absolutely inseparable. True Imperialism was development along the best lines of each of the great nations that composed the British Empire. All that was being done by Canada in the direction of defence was absolutely approved by British statesmanship, and that applied to the maintenance of local autonomy in conjunction with the idea of Imperial unity. Concluding, Sir Frederick referred to the system of physical drill in schools, and read a telegram from the Superintendent of Education in Nova Scotia, stating that during the school year ended July last there were twenty-one school cadet corps, with a total strength of 892. The plan of teaching physical drill in schools had been adopted by six of the nine Provinces, and he hoped and believed that within a few weeks all the Provinces would be in line.

Canadian Defence League

(ONTARIO DIVISION)



First Convention held at Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, on Friday,
September 9, 1910.

The President's Address.

Mr. R. E. Kingsford (President).—This is the first public Convention of this League, and in order that those who do not belong to it may understand how we come to be here, it seems to me desirable that I should say something of the formation of the League. In the report of the first meeting held in the Normal School Lecture Hall, St. James' Square, on 5th May, 1909, at which His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor was in the chair, it is stated that it was moved by Rev. Dr. Albert Carman, seconded by Rev. Prevost Macklem, and carried unanimously.

"This meeting approves of the formation of a patriotic League for Canada, and the following gentlemen are hereby appointed an organizing committee for this purpose: Rev. Canon Welch, J. L. Hughes, Prof. W. Lash Miller, J. T. Fotheringham, M. D.; Walter James Brown, E. H. Keating, C. E., and William Hamilton Merritt." (Later Rev. T. Crawford Brown took the place of Rev. Canon Welch.)

"That organizing committee went to work, and there was a great deal of correspondence undertaken and a great deal of organizing done. The result was that exactly a year afterwards, in May of this year, a meeting was held in St. James' Hall. At that meeting speeches were made, and the clauses embodying the objects of the League were adopted.

Such are the specific objects of this Association, which is called the "Canadian Defence League." Now a league is a voluntary association of persons. There is no dragging about this. All we desire to do, all we hope to do, is by argument and by advancing good reasons to induce thinking people to join with us. We find objections taken in some quarters to the title: "Defence League," and the first question usually asked is: "Defence against whom?" or, "What have we got to defend?" To those questions it is absolutely necessary that we should give a candid answer. Unfortunately, there are some classes of people who are so unfamiliar with the plain teachings of history that they object most strenuously to anything being said in the matter of defence. There are those who even believe that war is at an end, or, at all events, that there will be

no war into which we in Canada may ever engage. Another class are those who say that as the United States is our only neighbor, any war with that country is unthinkable. We may say most solemnly, God forbid that any such calamity as a quarrel between us and the United States should ever arise. We start from that position. But we recognize that we are here on this continent alongside the United States, and that as part and parcel of the British Empire, we have to deal with our affairs totally without regard to the United States. It is perfectly evident that there might be conflicts in which Canada, as a part of the British Empire, might be involved. We have, I regret to say, a very large class of people in this country who are either so superior, so learned, or so lazy that they do not love their own country. These people are the hardest to deal with, for I would rather deal with a man who is frankly hostile than with one who is simply apathetic. In addition we have a very large foreign element coming into the country, in greater numbers every year, and we have to deal with those people, train and help them as well as we can.

The next question that we are asked is, "What have you got to defend?" On that point I would say that Canada is becoming a very rich country. You recollect that when Blucher rode through the streets of London in 1814 he said, "Mein Gott! what a place to sack!" The same might be said to-day of Canada. When we think of our mines, our forests, our wheat fields and farm lands, our wonderful growth, we must say to ourselves, what a place to sack! There is the enormous material wealth of this country that we have to defend. But there are some sentimental things to defend also. We have to defend our status as British subjects, that is to say, as Canadian subjects of the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Empire or Dominions beyond the Seas. That means a very great deal. It means that we inherited British liberty, that we inherited as part of our birthright the traditions which all British people have, namely, respect for law in the first place; toleration in the second place; and magnanimity in the third place. Are these principles that underlie British institutions

worth while? If so, are we to abandon them, or are we to maintain them? I contend that to maintain these principles is one of the special objects of a league of this kind. If we forfeit or abandon these principles, our civilization will sink to a low plane.

To Maintain British Status.

Having intimated to you the classes of people we have to deal with, and what we have to defend, we must, in contrast with existing apathy, define our position most clearly. That position may be said to be this: There is a most passionate and heart-felt desire on the part of the vast majority of Canadians to maintain a separate national existence on this continent as part of the British Empire. That feeling is the bed-rock of the Canadian's composition. Is there anything we can advance or anything we can substitute as an equivalent to that feeling? I think not. In dealing with the people I have mentioned we have got to make clear to them the absolute necessity for the preservation of that British status if we do not want to forfeit all that life makes dear to us. If we have that object clearly before us, the next thing is to know how we propose to carry it out. In order to make that point clear you will have to read our Constitution. Later on you will hear from a gentleman who is connected with the National Service League, which is very much on the same lines as ours.

Organization Plans.

We have drafted a Constitution which provides for county associations, local branches, and Provincial divisions. We hope to provide speakers who will go through the country and explain to the people the objects of the League and help in the formation of local branches. When we have the League in working order and the branches formed, the next question is, what do we expect to do? That there may be no mistake it is plainly laid down that we hope to form a body of public opinion insistent on this, that there shall be effective legislation, whether by the Dominion or Provincial Parliaments does not matter, which shall make every young Canadian an efficient factor for defence in the event of this country ever being threatened. The mode of doing that is a matter for the Legislatures. The point is that whatever is done must be done by legislation, and in order to get that legislation we must succeed in the first place in convincing the electorate. Our legislators will do nothing except what they know will be supported by the electorate. Once we have the electorate convinced, the legislators will be only too glad to follow

the lead of the people. That is what we hope ultimately to get by this movement. Having got that, we shall then have only to arrange that the young manhood of the nation is trained. But we have also to appeal to those who are grown up. Vigilance is the price of liberty, but some grown-up people seem to forget this fact, so that while we want especially to appeal to the young, we also appeal to the adult population. To make the local organizations effective we ask every man and woman who in any way takes an interest in this question to put his or her shoulder to the wheel and help to carry on this great work. That is, in brief, our object, our plan of campaign, and what we hope to gain by it.

Women's Influence Needed.

We wish to interest the women of Canada in this movement. We know quite well that they will respond to the appeal; the history of past times shows that as a woman led the man followed. In the modern history of Canada we have had numerous instances of heroism shown by women. I think if we can induce the ladies who have so much influence with their sons, their sweethearts, their husbands, to join this movement, we are bound to succeed. If we succeed, what will be the result?

In Canada we are producing a distinct type. We are not English; we are not the people of the United States. We are Canadians, and that type should produce a race which should be honest, manly, not given to boasting, not narrow-mindedly provincial, but taking a broad view of things, knowing that the world is not included within the limits of our own Province and Dominion, and that we are part and parcel of wider currents of intellect and thought. If we maintain the traditions which we have inherited from our British forefathers, there is no future too proud, or too glorious for this country. When I think of the progress we have made and are making, it brings back to me the speech in "Julius Caesar," which is put into the mouth of Brutus. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." We are on that tide. We have the full tide with us if we use our advantages. I also remember with Horatian Maxim that "when fortune blows with too propitious gale, take half your canvas in." As Kipling says, "Lest we forget"; therefore let us remember to whom we owe all our present benefits. By losing our traditions, and sinking to a purely material level, we would forfeit our birthright and pass to the list of nations that, although they have had a history, they have ceased to be factors in the world's progress.

The Cadet Movement In Schools.

Mr. James L. Hughes, Inspector of Toronto Public Schools.—I believe that the surest and simplest and most effective way of accomplishing the purposes of this League is to develop a spirit and a power among the boys and girls of our country. I am not going to speak of the girls to-day; but I am glad that we have ladies on our executive committee. We all know that the women of our country have duties to perform during the time of war, and I believe they ought to be trained to perform those duties. But I am going to speak chiefly about the boys and tell you why I believe cadet work should be introduced into all the schools of our Dominion. I am glad the movement is progressing. We have had it in Toronto for 35 years, and every boy takes his part in drill at a certain age, just as he takes any other subject, unless, of course, he is physically unfit to do the work. We introduced another thing into Toronto, and I was reminded of it by the last remark of the President. For thirty years the boys and girls of Toronto, during the week before the King's birthday, have made a Union Jack. They make it with the colors in proper form and in proportion, so that they know the meaning of the three crosses, and understand that it represents the ideals of British liberty presented to the human race.

Two Broad Reasons.

There are two great broad reasons why boys should have physical and military drill in schools. The first is a patriotic reason. I agree with the President that patriotism is one of the strongest moral elements of character. Every boy should know that he has a country in the same sense that he knows he has a home. He should have a broader vision than many boys have now, and know what it means to have a share in a country like Canada. And I do not think there is any better way of dealing with the boys, particularly those who come from foreign countries, and getting them to understand that the Union Jack is their flag and that it is an honor to live under that flag, than by having them march in the Canadian or British uniform, behind the British flag, listening

to British music and keeping step to that music. When Prince Arthur was with us two years ago we showed him an entire company consisting of Jewish citizens, every boy having been born in Europe, and every boy with his head up, lifting his feet higher than he had ever lifted them before, because he listened to the strains of a British band playing British music, and followed the flag which he now calls his flag. If for no other reason I should like to have military drill in our schools, because our foreign friends are coming in very rapidly. We wish them to believe and know that British liberty is the greatest liberty in the world, and that the grand old Union Jack represents the highest ideals of civilization.

Educational Reasons.

But there are other reasons, mighty reasons, why military drill should be introduced into the schools—educational reasons, and they are even more rational in my judgment than the reasons I have already stated relating to patriotism. Everybody grants that military drill is one of the best agents for developing physical power; for developing the individual physically. We have got past the time when we thought it was enough to educate only a part of the mind. We now know that the physical part of a man requires development as well as the mental, for God created us physically, morally and spiritually, and if we develop one part of the power of the man at the expense of the other we are fighting against God. So we try to develop man physically as well as mentally. Another educational reason for physical and military drill in schools is that boys like it. I believe God made boys right, and I am not going to try to change their nature. I am going to try to develop the power of the boy, to develop God in the boy, to develop the soul in him. Every boy I ever knew loves to drill. My son, when he was 14, would not go to a baseball match. I never knew a boy who would go to a baseball match if he had an opportunity to turn out and drill with his company. I find the boys would rather go

to drill than to see baseball or any other game. I believe I could develop a boy at a certain age better than any minister by merely preaching could do it, by interpreting him, by giving him an opportunity to develop himself along the strongest lines of his individual character. However you may account for it, the boys love to drill, and for that reason I advocate it. It stirs a new element of power in them. We all know perfectly well that if we develop a boy physically it reacts upon his moral nature. You cannot train a boy to stand with his feet properly placed and his shoulders back, looking out upon the world, without altering and improving his moral nature. If you take a thousand boys who have been allowed to go round with their hands in their pockets and trailing their feet on the ground, and another batch of boys who have been trained to stand properly, the devil will have a much easier time with the first thousand than with the second thousand when they go out into the world. If I train a boy to step freely, he gets a consciousness of freedom. If I train him to step with dignity, he gets a consciousness of dignity better than he could get if I talked dignity to him. If I train him to step freely and gracefully and with dignity I am putting these elements of human power into his character. By military drill a boy gets consciousness of duty and obedience.

Obedience to Law.

That is a great element in moral power—the duty of obedience not merely to his superior. Far beyond that I hold to be obedience to law. Obedience to the human being who is above him is vital, of course, but more vital is the recognition of law and the recognition of the privilege as well as the duty of submission to law. Our duty as trainers is to develop that reverence for law in the game and in the schools, in the city and in the State, and away above that, reverence for the law of Christ and for the law of God. That is as natural a consequence as any sequence that can be developed. I know of no other process but drill and the game in the schools, except the kindergarten and manual training, which give a boy that consciousness I want to give him of a reverence for law. He

loves to obey his captain when he gives the command. It is not the man he loves to obey; it is the law. It gives him a consciousness of his individual responsibility better than anything else except the game. The boy who plays a game of baseball or lacrosse knows he must obey, or the team is liable to fail. Every boy knows that if he is wrong in the drill the whole company is wrong. One boy out of step or out of place spoils his company or regiment.

Training for Citizenship.

There comes into the life of a boy a consciousness that he is responsible for his part in the world, for doing his work as fully and definitely as he can do it. I got that into my consciousness when I was training under good old Major Coleman in the Normal School. I do not believe I could ever have understood the sense of responsibility without that old-time training. Beyond that the ideal comes out. I am responsible as a citizen, as a man, for doing my work as fully as I can. If I do not the world will be poorer when I die than it might have been. That is one of the great moral elements we can put into a boy, and I do not know of any better way of doing it than by giving him military training and the game. Beyond that is the ideal that a boy gets that he is not to do anything for himself, that he is not to shine in the game or in drill just for his own glory, but that he must work with his fellows, work in harmony with them, each one taking his part and working together for a single great purpose. We get that in the game, and we get that in drill better than any other way.

So, believing these to be the great ideals of intellectual and moral power, I believe that military drill is the best agency by which we can develop the lives of boys and the girls, too, if we had training of a special kind. Therefore I believe in it. I advocate military drill in order to make the boys ready to defend their homes when anybody comes, and to see that it is theirs still when he goes, and to be better able to achieve the great purpose which God has given them in life.

The Defence Movement In Great Britain.

Mr. J. Windsor Lewis (National Service League, Great Britain).—I think we all recognize that this movement must be promoted in each of the great self governing Dominions of the Empire according to the local necessities and the best local means. As this movement was started earlier in England than in Canada, perhaps you will not think it a disadvantage to hear something of what has been going on in England since the movement began and of what progress has been made.

British Difficulties

We have undoubtedly had greater disadvantages to contend with in England than you will have here, because we have more deeply-rooted prejudices in the Old Country than you have in Canada. Against these, however, we have made considerable progress within the last eight years. The League was started in England about 1902, soon after the end of the South African War, and since then we have been trying to push forward the same great principles that you have adopted, and with encouraging results.

Growth and Progress.

Our membership has gone up by leaps and bounds, and I think that in a few years we shall see an enormous increase. Of course, the membership is not in proportion to the large population we have, but we should make considerably more progress in the next few years. We have undoubtedly a much greater influence in the British House of Commons than we had at the beginning. In 1902, when this movement was started, I believe there was not more than one member of the House of Commons who would get up and speak in favor of the principles for which we stand. In the present House of Commons we have something like thirty members who are ready to get up and defend the principles of the League. In the debates on the army estimates you may constantly hear these principles brought forward, and the programme of the League advocated. That is a very remarkable indication of the progress made in eight years. Only last

year Lord Roberts brought forward a bill in the House of Lords adopting the programme of the League, and this bill reached its second reading and was defeated by a majority of twenty-one. Everyone knows there was some political reason at the back of that defeat. I believe, if each member of the House had voted according to what he felt ought to be done, that bill would have been passed by a very large majority.

Support of the Press.

In England we have succeeded in gaining the support of the most influential part of the press. The Times newspaper supports us in every possible way, and so do many of the other influential papers. The progress we have made in England, in the centre of the Empire, where we have a very deep-rooted prejudices to fight against, is a progress which I think should be of very real encouragement to you here.

The Organization.

May I say one word about our organization? We have a great advantage in being under the presidency of Lord Roberts, whose name carries weight everywhere. Then we have an executive committee composed very largely of people who have served their country, either in the army or in the navy, and we have a general council. We also have county branches all over England, and to some extent in Scotland and Wales, but not yet in Ireland. These county branches have done remarkably good work, and it is hoped in nearly every county to have shortly a paid organizing secretary who will promote the work of the League, and organize sub-branches in the villages and towns. These sub-branches are represented on the general county committees.

These are the general outlines of our plans of organization. Undoubtedly the paid organizing secretaries, who are in touch with headquarters in London, have done an enormous amount of good in promoting a knowledge of our principles, and the increased

membership is greatly due to their efforts. Our subscription varies from about \$5.25 to the low sum of two cents. We have a very large number who pay only two cents, and who get a card of adherence to the principles of the League. Ladies, of course, are admitted to the League at a lesser subscription than that paid by the men.

The League's Programme.

As to our programme. The great underlying principle is this: we consider that every able-bodied man is under obligation to come forward and defend his country in time of danger. We consider that it is the Government's duty to see that men are trained to fulfil that obligation and to carry it out in the best way they can. Otherwise, you are sending those untrained and undisciplined men who volunteer to a certain death, and you are not making use of the splendid material you have at hand. We have been absolutely definite about having behind the principle the law of England. It is no good coming forward with some vague idea at the start of a movement like this. You have to tell the people quite plainly what you want, and that you are going to make these principles part of the laws of the country. Otherwise, they say: "You have taken us in and deceived us." We have always made it quite plain that we want to have the principles of the League recognized by the laws of the United Kingdom. A principle of this magnitude cannot be recognized in an uniform way unless you have the legal power to carry it out. That is common sense.

Encouraging Willingness to Serve.

Apart from the question of uniformity, we consider that a law passed to carry out this principle would give an opportunity to a large number of men who are quite willing to come forward at the present time to take their share in the work of preparing to defend their country in time of danger, but who find difficulties in their way. The struggle for existence is so great that they cannot afford to take the slightest chances which might place them in the position of being handicapped in their work. We say if you pass a law embodying this principal of universal training you give these men an opportunity to come forward and carry out what they are willing to do. I remember hearing a speech by Lord Milner in which he said: "Once you make this principle part of the life of the nation, the whole life of the nation will adapt itself to the carrying out of that principle."

Once make it an integral part of the national life and the whole life of the country will adapt itself to carrying it out.

Training for Home Defence.

Then we have the preliminary training, and we are perfectly definite about that. We very strongly emphasize its importance. I was very much interested in what Mr. Hughes said about training in the schools. We consider that any training must be based on some early training of the boys in the elementary schools. A programme of training was embodied in the bill which Lord Roberts presented in the House of Lords last year.

I should like to give you one or two details. There was first an obligation resting on every able-bodied subject in the United Kingdom between the ages of eighteen and thirty to defend his country. It surely is not very much to ask an able-bodied Briton to come forward and defend his flag. That obligation was only to rest upon him so far as the United Kingdom was concerned. That is to say, he was not under any obligation to defend any other part of the Empire. In the bill there was no organization of a reserve, but that would, I believe, have been a subsequent step. Members of the army and naval reserves were exempted and in certain cases, too, the only sons of widows who were the sole means of support were exempted. The physically unfit, and certain servants of the Government were also exempted by the bill.

Service an Honor.

In Norway, people of bad character and criminals are not allowed to serve, and we adopted that idea. In Norway it is considered an honor to carry out this obligation to the country, and it is therefore held that a man of bad character has no right to have that honour. That is, I think, a very high ideal to put before the country. It is an honour to carry out this obligation. Those people who claimed exemption for unfitness, and those who would not serve, would be subject, as in Switzerland, to a deduction from or tax on their incomes. That is a very fair principle to embody in any scheme of this kind.

The training was to begin in the normal cases in the first year of service; that would be at 18, and it would ordinarily consist of this: In the first year it would be from four to six months continuous recruit training. The four months would be for the men who

joined the infantry, and up to six months would be for the men in the higher branches of the service—cavalry and artillery. We place enormous importance on this period of recruit training in the first year, because during that continuous period a man would get the elements of military training grounded into him, and, consequently, his subsequent training would be of very much more use to him. In the second, third and fourth years a man would be expected to take a fortnight's training each year, preceded by a few drills in the Territorial force, as in Great Britain at the present time. He would also be expected to undergo a musketry course. At the end of the four years he would be free from all further training, and would be liable only to come up and give his services if the country were in danger. I do not think a fairer programme could be put forward than that. Under the provisions of the bill a man was to be fined for not going to training, and he was also to be subject to a heavy penalty if he did not appear for mobilization, and would be liable to be deprived of his civil rights, such as the franchise, old age pension and the right to a Government position, if he did not come.

A slight difficulty arose in regard to the officers. No officer should be allowed to retain a commission unless he had one year's commission in the regular army, or unless he had passed through the recruit training mentioned.

No Conscription.

In preparing this programme we were told at once that we were defending conscription. Well, you may call it what you like. We are not defending conscription according to the popular understanding of it. We don't even consider that it should be necessary for us to bring forward a suggestion that a man should be put through a long system of training. We don't want to turn out our men like machines—cast-iron soldiers.

There was a time when our scheme was looked upon as antagonistic to the Territorial army, but nobody thinks now that we are opposed to the Territorial force. We are ready to pay tribute to that army which only wants the objects of the Service League superimposed upon it to make it a good and sound system of home defence. We are not antagonistic to the home defence force, and many of our members are members of that force and occupy high positions in it. It is of the utmost im-

portance that there should be no antagonism between a movement of this sort and the national force. We are only trying to give the national force a better opportunity of carrying out its obligations and duty and fitting the men of the country better to defend it.

Better Citizenship.

One of the objects of our National Service League is to try and make the men of the country better citizens. There are those who say that our programmes of training are not necessary, and are not going to do any good. If England were in danger, "a million banners will flash in the sun at that moment," but of what use would they be? If you have such grand material as that, and the people are ready to come forward and make the sacrifice in time of need, are you not wasting it by not giving them some opportunity and chance to make use of that splendid spirit? Surely you are wasting a great asset if you do not utilize this great chance of making trained men out of such excellent material.

In Canada, particularly, where there is undoubtedly a national spirit, it would be easy to inculcate the principles of the League. If you are going to make use of that spirit you must give it a distinctive training which every other nation at the present time gives it.

Service and Manliness.

In Switzerland the national feeling was so high that a woman would not look upon a man who failed to discharge his obligation to the State. There you have a system which the same programmes of training as we are advocating and trying to get adopted in Great Britain. What struck me most particularly there was that the question of national defence was a business and not a mere amusement. It is upon that high plane that the National Service League desires to see it in Britain, and it was with that great end in view that they were now propagating the principles of the League, not only at home, but in the over-sea Dominions and colonies. Rapid progress has been made during the past few years, but much has yet to be overcome before we can say that our work is done.

I am appealing to you Canadians for co-operation and assistance. You are an integral part of our great Empire, and I know that you will not ignore the lesson of which I am the bearer from the Motherland.

Canadian Individual Responsibility.

Sir George Ross,—I have to thank Mr. Kingsford for his very kind reference to myself personally, and the organization for the honour it has conferred upon me. The object of my life has been to serve my country in some form or another, perhaps not worthily, but, nevertheless, always to the best of my ability.

I am delighted to know that an organization such as I have the honour of addressing, has been formed. I think there is a place for it in Canada. I received a circular which sets forth the objects of the League, and I have taken a paragraph from it as the subject of my observations: "The practical aim in securing an ideal citizenship is to give every man a clear conception of his duties to his home, to his municipality, to his Province, his nation and his Empire." That is a very comprehensive statement. To fully elaborate that statement would take much longer than I should occupy, or than you have or would be willing to wait upon me.

The Home.

The Defence League begins with the home. I don't know a better place to begin. I don't know but in Ontario there is as much work to be done defending the home as in any other department of public service. In modern civilization the rural districts are being vacated. The people are leaving the farms and migrating towards our towns and cities. Every page in British history, and in ancient history as well as modern history, is written with the dangers and losses to the national life through this profuse migration from the country. Is there anything that this League could do to idealize the rural home and to make the young man of Canada more contented? There might be inaugurated in our colleges, particularly our agricultural colleges, a course of lectures devoted to the beautifying and sanitation of Canadian homes. You remember that noble poem beginning: "The stately homes of England, how beautiful they stand." If there is anything ideal to me in England, or that is more ideal than another, it is the stately homes of England; these noble mansions surrounded with their tall ancestral trees. I sometimes think that in the great race just now for peasant proprietorship and for the distribution of those large estates amongst small owners, when that takes place, as possibly it may in the rush of socialism, that England will be robbed of much of her beauty and much of her

rural honour. But we must wait and see. The defence of our home in making it attractive and beautiful might very well be the subject of a pamphlet by this League. Its wide distribution would add to the securing of that ideal citizenship.

Municipal and Provincial Needs.

Then you say we owe a duty to the municipality, and to the Province, and here there is a very wide field for work by this League. How is it that in our municipalities it is so difficult to get men of wealth and position to serve the municipality? It is not so in the Old Country, to the same extent at least, nor even in the adjoining republic. Lord Rosebery was chairman of the London County Council, and Lord Derby was Mayor of Liverpool. You will find throughout Scotland also that some of the best men are serving their municipalities. I sometimes make comparisons, not quite satisfactory to myself, between our municipal officers and the municipal officers of the Old Land. I know many of them in the Old Country, and they are men of the greatest wealth and position.

Municipal Government.

Another factor to which the Defence League might apply itself is to increase the efficient government of our municipalities. They would watch over the sanitary conditions of our cities, and the health of our cities, and use their defensive powers against pestilence and against disease, particularly the contagious diseases. Then you have work to do in connection with the moral state. That, however, would lead me too far afield. There are commercial and other interests, however, demanding attention. Ontario is one of the largest and wealthiest Provinces in the Dominion, and her resources are being doubled. The defense of Ontario might very well assume the education of public opinion, so that the position which Ontario held might be maintained. These are problems at our door, within our reach, and the solution of much which depends upon the public opinion which a League like this would form.

National Defence.

The defense of the nation is the higher field. It is first the cultivation of a national spirit. That is the foundation of the whole question, for without a national spirit people would not move for the defence of the nation. Without a national spirit money could not be obtained by taxation for the

nation; and without a national spirit nobody would care whether the nation prospered or whether it failed. It is very much to be regretted that the national spirit in Canada is not reaching that high ideal of activity and enthusiasm which many of us would like, and yet it is pleasant to think that the national spirit has grown very much in the last 25 or 30 years. There was a time when we could scarcely say that we had a national soul of our own. We were like infants crying for the light. Our system of transportation was entirely inadequate, and nobody seemed to care whether Canada prospered or not. There came an awakening, however. It came with Confederation. Then we began to feel that we had a future. We began to reach out eastward and westward until we embraced the whole country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. As years rolled on we began to realize our possibilities; we began to think it was possible for Canada to be a nation. I hope there are no doubters in regard to that now. I need not refer to the national spirit characteristic of other nations. The United States presents it in extremes; sometimes coercive, sometimes the reverse. That is better than the want of a national spirit. See what Germany has done since Bismarck united her forty-eight provinces; and take the land of my forefathers—they would not consent to serve anybody, nor be governed by anybody if they were capable of governing themselves.

The national spirit is what makes us a strong nation. Numerical strength does not amount to anything. I am glad that the Defence League has at heart the cultivation of a national spirit, holding before our young men ideals of purity and manliness, of public service and industry, without which the better elements of society could not prevail, and without which they could not effectively govern. There are two or three elements essential to a national spirit in Canada: a reasonable toleration for mixed races and diverse creeds; we have too much to do to quarrel among ourselves. We want to be united in a common basis. The British Empire is the best defender of the home in the world. This kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland has a great many diverse elements under its control. Among many classes and sections there is very little in common, and yet in the defence of the nation they stand firmly together. Let us not, however, fear about Canada so long as we pour into the general estate a wealth of physical and intellectual strength.

Commercial Sanity.

Then as a nation it is our business to adopt

sound commercial methods, and here let me say that it is very pleasant to hear people from abroad speak of the commercial sanity of Canada. They wanted a commercial system that gave them a unity of interests. The defence of Canadian commerce means first that we shall see that our own home market is not injuriously intruded upon, and, secondly, that we should see that we have skilled workmen to compete with the producers of any other nation under the sun. I would despair of Canada if I did not believe that in and through our colleges and high schools we are able to produce skilled workmen able to compete with others of every nation; and place their textiles, and indeed, every product, on the market side by side with the products of older lands, and find that they compared favorably with other nations.

I am glad to say that we are reaching out for the commerce of the world. We have trade relations with Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Germany and Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. We ought to defend our interests by seeing that our commerce extends to foreign lands, so that when our markets are full of our own manufactures they can go into the markets of the world and find a sale for their products. We have lines of steamers all over the world, and these should carry our products wherever our flag flies. Let us defend our interests then in that way.

Enemies—Internal and External.

We defend ourselves against internal and against external enemies—perhaps we have no external enemies—and yet there may come a time when it will become necessary for us to maintain law and order. We should also be prepared for that. As for external enemies we do not know where they may come from. We are alongside of a great nation with probably ninety millions, which certainly once thought Canada should be part of the United States. The nation that rescinded the Reciprocity Treaty in 1854 did so with the deliberate intention of forcing Canada into annexation. I am happy to believe, and I think we ought to cultivate the belief, that Americans have now no hostile intentions upon Canada. I think the nations of the world would restrain America from a wanton attack upon a neighbor. Nations are governed by public opinion.

Military Defence.

There is a virtue in military defence, however, which bestows an influence upon the

men who exercise it. I am not a military man in the sense of provoking a quarrel; I am in sense of endeavouring to train every competent Canadian in military manoeuvres for the safety and defence of the nation. I believe the greatest asset, or one of the greatest assets we have, is the number of men originating from the best stocks in the world, the Saxon, Anglo-Saxon, and Celtic Saxon. These three elements are dominant in the commerce and industry of the world to-day. The three nations, Great Britain, Germany and France ruled the world to-day singly in some senses, collectively in the higher senses of the term. Such a breed of men trained in intellect need not take a second place to any other breed of man known. Let us see, then, that most is made of these powers. In Germany a few years ago I saw a march past of soldiers, and was greatly impressed with the physical fitness of these men. Let our men have that physical training which will give them a sense of confidence, and will make them strong in emergency, and will also make them strong to fulfil the ordinary duties of life. To me military culture for military purposes is but one small part of what it means. Obedience, close application, and respect of authority such as military training means, develops a man in the way he should go, and makes for good citizenship. Military training for the young men of Canada would add to their pleasure, increase their physical usefulness, and cultivate their qualities for industrial success. Imagine a military lawyer—a military training would be good for a lawyer. It would make him prompt and resolute and respectful to the court which I believe all lawyers should be.

It is a remarkable thing that when they were enlisting men for the Boer war in Manchester they rejected six out of every seven. They were not fit for service because of physical disability. I do not think such a thing would happen in Canada, but physical drill would reduce the possibility to a minimum. If our high schools, with their gymnasias and other physical advantages, would open up for the benefit of the young men of the cities and towns for physical culture during the evenings, it would be a great boon. There you have the machinery lying idle except for a few hours during the week. If the attention of the School Boards was drawn to this I have no doubt they would comply with a request to have their gymnasias placed at the disposal of these young men in the evenings. I approve very much of encouraging military cadet corps in the high schools. I think they will improve the

physique of our young men, and will give them an enthusiasm for power and for everything that is characteristic of higher citizenship. Anything you can do in that direction would be usefully done.

Our Empire.

We have referred to the municipality, the Province, and the nation; they are all embraced in the Empire, not the British Empire, but our Empire, the Empire to which we owe allegiance, the Empire that has watched over us in our early years, and is watching over us still; the Empire out of which our population is being made, that is, building warships for the protection of our commerce and harbours, and is watching over us with the affection and fondness of a devoted mother; our Empire, which we want to make bigger by making Canada bigger, and by cultivating her timber, mineral, and agricultural resources. We will stand by her in every emergency. That is the lesson which Canada is teaching to every Canadian. That is the lesson we want to teach the nations of the world. The fact that we did go to the assistance of the Motherland in South Africa is a noble page in our history.

Then let us defend our commercial relations and see that no inroad is made upon the commercial prosperity of Canada. And let us remember the Empire which is our Empire. Her achievements are our achievements; and if in any way we can add to her glory by a higher honour, or bettering our ideals in business or in Church or in State, or by devotion to service in any capacity, it would be our greatest satisfaction to associate the name of Canada with the glorious achievements of the past century, and to show the Motherland that her whelps have all the qualities of the Old Lion, and in every respect worthy of the stock from which they sprung.

VOTES OF THANKS.

On the motion of Col. Fotheringham, seconded by Mr. Castell Hopkins, Sir George Ross was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his address. The other speakers were thanked on the motion of Col. Belcher, seconded by the Rev. T. Crawford Brown.

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted: "This meeting hereby approves of the objects of the Canadian Defence League, and expresses the hope that its work may rapidly extend throughout Canada." The mover was Mr. E. H. Keating, and the seconder Dr. C. O. Hastings.